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SEG news release

Society of Exploration Geophysicists

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MONTHLY SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(Month of April, 1986)

The number of seismic land crews and marine vessels searching for oil and gas in the U.S. and U.S. waters during April declined by thirty-five crews from the March total of 240 crews. The land crew total decreased by twenty-seven and the marine crew total decreased by eight crews. The total number of crews has decreased for nine consecutive months, and the April total sets a new all-time low record for active crews and vessels since the Society began the survey in May, 1974.

The April total (205) represents a decrease of 15% from last month, a 46% decrease from April, 1985, a 57% decrease from April, 1984, a 54% decrease from April, 1983, a 67% decrease from April, 1982, a 68% decrease from April, 1981 and a decrease of 59% over the same month in 1980.

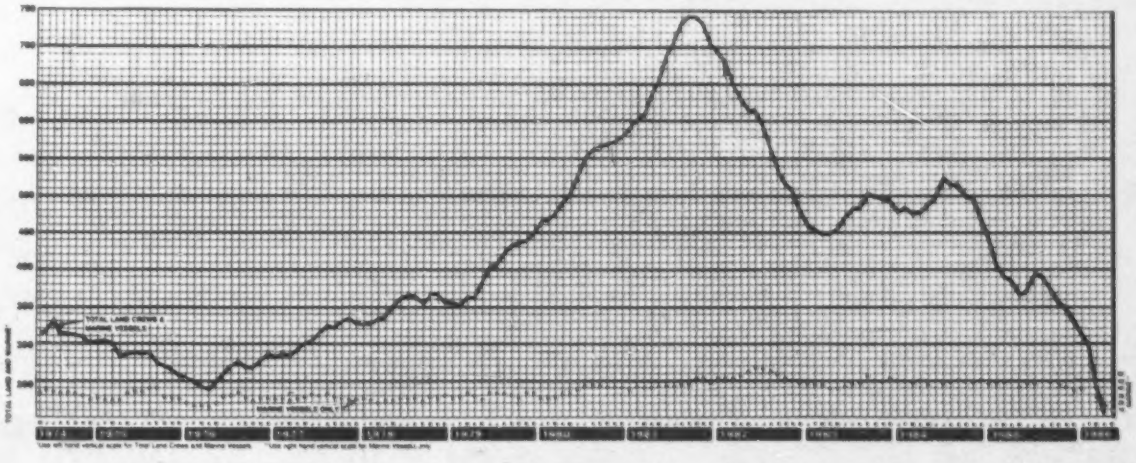
During April, eight contractors were operating twelve of the 159 land crews and six of the fifteen vessels on a speculative basis.

TOTAL LAND & MARINE CREWS:	This Month 205	Last Month 240	Apr.'85 383	Apr.'84 473	Apr.'83 449	Apr.'82 626	Apr.'81 645	Apr.'80 496

	LAND CREWS								MARINE VESSELS							
	This Mo.	Last Mo.	Apr. 1985	Apr. 1984	Apr. 1983	Apr. 1982	Apr. 1981	Apr. 1980	This Mo.	Last Mo.	Apr. 1985	Apr. 1984	Apr. 1983	Apr. 1982	Apr. 1981	Apr. 1980
52 Contr's:	159	185	304	385	369	528	564	426	15	23	39	42	32	48	32	25
8 Oil Co's:	26	27	32	38	41	43	41	39	5	5	7	8	7	7	7	6
1 Gov't.:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	185	212	336	423	410	571	605	465	20	28	47	50	39	55	40	31

SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)



*Results of SEG's Seismic Crew Count of land and marine vessels engaged in exploration for oil and gas in the USA and USA waters, including Alaska, for the month indicated. These figures are compiled from data reported by oil companies operating company-owned seismic exploration crews and vessels and by contract seismic exploration companies. Special significance is attached to seismic crew activity since it is recognized as the leading indicator of all petroleum exploration activity.

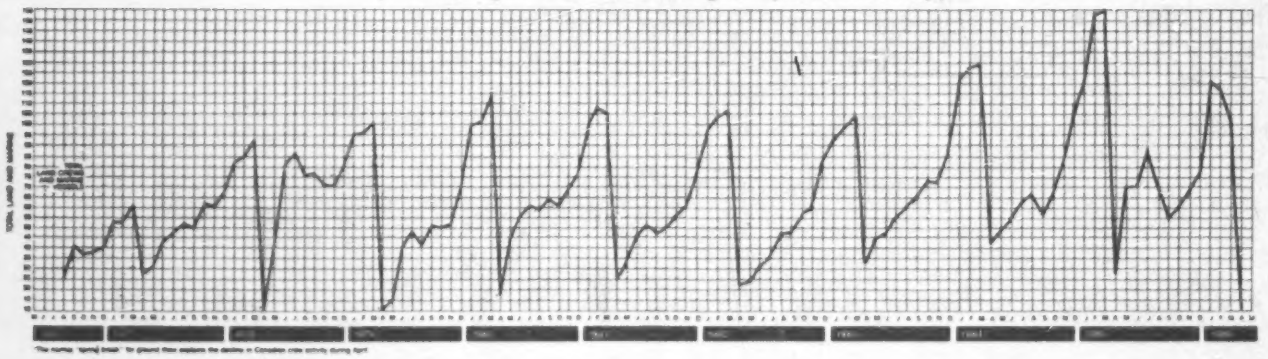
CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT

April, 1986 (March figures in parentheses)

	Land Crews	Marine Vessels
10 Contractors:	11 (96)	0 (0)
0 Oil Companies:	0 (4)	0 (0)
Totals:	11 (100)	0 (0)

Note: "Spring Break" for ground thaw explains the decline in Canadian crew activity during April.

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT
(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)



SEG's monthly USA Seismic Crew survey was organized in 1974 at the request of the United States' Federal Energy Administration. The report is currently submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy. Both the U.S. and the international surveys are financed in part by a grant from the International Association of Geophysical Contractors.

HISTORY OF SEISMIC EXPLORATION IN THE UNITED STATES
(Seismic crews searching for oil & gas.)